

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to provide a cross-reference to the previously filed International Application.

The claims have been amended to delete improper multiple dependencies and to place the application into better form for examination. An Abstract of the Disclosure has been added due to it being omitted during translation of the International Application. The title has been amended to correspond with the title on the declaration.

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the application by this Amendment.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

10049597-021402
201720-26567001

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE TITLE:

The title has been amended as follows:

METHOD OF OBTAINING A RADIOGRAPHIC IMAGE OF A TOOTH AND IT
SURROUNDING [AREA] ENVIRONMENT, AND [APPARATUSES WHICH PERMIT ITS
METHOD TO BE ACCOMPLISHED] DEVICES FOR IMPLEMENTING SAID METHOD

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE:

An Abstract of the Disclosure has been added.

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims have been amended as follows:

3. (Amended) Method according to [one of the preceding
claims] claim 1 or 2, characterized in that said light rays are
converted into analogue electrical signals, and in that these
said analogue electrical signals are converted into digital
electrical signals.

4. (Amended) Method according to [one of the preceding
claims] claim 1, characterized in that it comprises amplifying at
least one portion of said electrical signals according to a
predetermined function.

5. (Amended) Apparatus for accomplishing the method according to [on of the preceding claims]claim 1, characterized in that it comprises:

a source (1), which is capable of emitting a bundle of X-rays towards said tooth (4) and its surrounding area (5),

a plurality of cylindrical rods (10), which are produced from a material capable of transforming the X-rays into light rays (11) of a wavelength greater than that of the X-rays, each rod comprising an inlet face (12), which is capable of receiving said X-rays, and an outlet face (13), which is capable of emitting said light rays (11), said cylindrical rods (10) being disposed side by side so that all of the inlet faces (12) are turned towards said X-ray source (1),

means (20) for converting light rays (11) into electrical signals,

means (30) for connecting the outlet faces (13) of the cylindrical rods to said means (20) for converting light rays into electrical signals comprising a bundle of optical fibres, and

means (70) for processing said electrical signals with a view to producing said radiographic image.

11. (Amended) Apparatus according to [one of claims 5 to 10]claim 5, characterized in that the means (70) for processing said electrical signals with a view to producing said radiographic image comprise at least one of the following

elements: a temporary memory, a permanent memory or a converter for converting electrical signals into video signals which are capable of being displayed on a screen.

12. (Amended) Apparatus according to [one of claims 5 to 11]claim 5, characterized in that said cylindrical rods (10) are produced from caesium iodide crystal.

14. (Amended) Apparatus according to [one of claims 5 to 13]claim 5, characterized in that said cylindrical rods (10) are in contact with one another to form a mosaic.

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention concerns methods and devices for obtaining a radiographic image of a tooth and its surrounding environment. The method and the device are essentially characterized in that cylindrical rods produced from a material capable of transforming X-rays into light rays are arranged side by side for receiving the X-rays emitted by a source after they have passed through the tooth and its surrounding environment so as to both guide them and transform them into light rays, means thereafter converting said light rays into electric signals which are processed to produce the radiographic image.

10049597-021402
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